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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,344	11/21/2005	Thomas Bernhard Pabst	003D.0059.U1(US)	7511

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HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC
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EXAMINER

VU, HIEN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/533,344

Applicant(s)

PABST, THOMAS BERNHARD

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 3, 5 and 20 are objected to because in claim 3, line 2, "its back end " lacks an antecedent basis; claim 5, lines 3-5 it is unclear how the legs of the contacts located away from the flat flex cable could be pressed onto the flex cable by two ramps on the slide; claim 20, line 2, it is unclear what the feature "a latch" of the strain relieve is referring to.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosquera (4975076) in view of Geltsch et al (6773288) and Puerner (5387123).

As to claim 1 and 14, Mosquera, Figs. 1-5 show a housing 14, at least one opening 16, a flat flex cable 32 having an end received in the opening, spring contacts 36 connected to the housing for connecting with the flat flex cable, a strain relief having a slide 12 which is adapted to be introduced in to the opening, a rib 26 on the slide into a recess 60 at a bottom of the housing approximate the opening. Mosquera does not show the slide being introduced into the opening in a direction partially along an introduction direction of the flat cable into the introduction opening until the slide locks in a final position on the housing. Geltsch, Figs. 1-2e show a slide 3 being introduced into an opening of a housing 2 in a direction partially along an introduction direction of a flat cable 1 until the slide locks in a final position on the housing. It would have been

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obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Mosquera by forming the slide to be introduced into the opening of the housing in a direction partially along an introduction direction of the flat cable until the slide locks in a final position on the housing, as taught by Geltsch, in order to secure the strain relief into the housing.

As to claim 2, Mosquera shows the slide having a ramp with a back end (not labeled) projected above a level of the opening and the rib is pressed into the recess.

As to claim 3, Mosquera shows on a back end of the slide has an operating surface (not labeled) for pressing the slide in, an upper edge disposed a shoulder for the ramp (not labeled).

As to claim 4, Mosquera shows spring contacts 36 having head ends press on regions of the conductive tracks of the flex cable.

As to claim 5, insofar as the claim can be understood, Mosquera shows the spring contacts being essentially U-shape having legs (not labeled) located away from the flat cable. In absence of any showing of criticality of the applicant to form the flat cable to be pressed onto the flat cable by two ramps on the slide would have been obvious of modification since such change solve no stated problem.

As to claim 6, Mosquera shows the spring contacts having female connectors at one end away from the introduction opening.

As to claim 15, Mosquera does not show the strain relief having a slot for receiving the end of the flat cable. Puerner, Figs. 1-3 show a strain relief 12 having a slot for receiving the end of the flat cable 19. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Mosquera in view of Geltsch by forming the

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strain relief with a slot for receiving the end of the flat cable, as taught by Puerner, in order to provide guiding for the flat cable.

As to claims 16-19, the claims have substantially similar features as claims 1-6 and 14-15; therefore they are rejected under the similar rationale.

As claim 20, Mosquera in view of Geltsch, in Fig. 1 of Geltsch shows the strain relieve having a latch for latching the slide in final position.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 14-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hien Vu".

HV

3/2/07

HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER